

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BORDEA 00033 080905Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /028 W  
----- 108420

R 081030Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0485  
INFO USDOC  
AMEMBQSSY PQRIS  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLASSBORDEAUX 0033

FOR COMMERCE

E.O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, FR  
SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM - MODERNIZATION OF THE  
CANAL DU MIDI

1. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN LOCALLY TO THE PROSPECTS  
OF MODERNIZING THE HISTORIC CANAL DU MIDI IN AN EFFORT TO  
ESTABLISH A COMMERCIALLY VIABLE INLAND WATERWAY FOR CARGO SHIP-  
MENTS BETWEEN FRANCE'S ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN COASTS. IF  
SUCH A PROJECT IS APPROVED BY BOTH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND  
THE LOCAL ECONOMIC REGIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTED, THIS MAY PROVIDE  
A MAJOR PROJECT OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. FIRMS, AND TECHNOLOGY.  
IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT THIS PRELIMINARY REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT, THE SOCIETE  
D'ETUDES TECHNIQUES ET ECONOMIQUES HAS COMPLETED A STUDY ON THE  
POTENTIAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS OF THE CANAL DU MIDI AND THE  
NECESSARY BERTHING ARRANGEMENTS TO INCREASE THE ACTIVITY OF  
THIS INLAND WATERWAY. THE CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY IS THAT  
THIS MODERNIZATION PROJECT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY 222 MILLION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BORDEA 00033 080905Z

FRANCS (47,234,55 DOLLARS): 60% WOULD BE FINANCED BY THE GOF

AND THE BALANCE BY THE THREE ECONOMIC REGIONS CONCERNED:  
AQUITAINE, MIDI-PYRENEES AND LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON. IF THE CANAL  
IS MODERNIZED TO ALLOW PASSAGE OF HEAVIER BARGES WITH A CAPACITY  
OF 250 TONS BETWEEN TOULOUSE AND SETE THE ANNUAL FREIGHT  
CAPACITY OF THE WHOLE CANAL (I.E. BORDEAUX-SETE) CAN INCREASE  
FROM THE PRESENT 600,000 TONS PER ANNUM TO 2,000,000 TONS BY  
1985.

3. SEVERAL FIRMS ARE CONSIDERING THE CHEAPER TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF SUCH AN IMPROVED INLAND WATERWAY: FOR EXAMPLE, THE ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT WHICH IS BEING BUILT AT TRICASTIN (DROME) WOULD CONSIDER USING THE CANAL FOR IMPORTING MATERIALS FROM SPAIN THROUGH BORDEAUX TO TRICASTIN, AN AGRICULTURAL FOOD PROCESSING PLANT PLANNED FOR CONSTRUCTION AT THE PORT OF LE VERDON NEAR BORDEAUX COULD SHIP ITS PRODUCTS (MOSTLY CEREALS) THROUGH THE CANAL TO THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE CASTELNAUDARY AREA, THE DASSAULT AVIATION FIRM IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING CANAL BARGES TO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT PARTS BETWEEN TOULOUSE AND FOS, A HYDROCARBON DISTRIBUTOR IN THE NARBONNE REGION IS CONSIDERING BARGE TRANSPORT FOR CARGOS FROM FRONTIGNAN, ETC...

4. CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS REMAIN. PROMOTORS OF THE CANAL PROJECT SEEK TO HAVE IT INSCRIBED IN THE GOALS VII ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN. ALSO, THE POSSIBLE COLLABORATION AND SHARING OF COSTS BY THE THREE ECONOMIC REGIONS THROUGH WHICH THE CANAL PASSES IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.

5. MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW WHEN AVAILABLE.

DJEREJIAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION, CANALS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BORDEA00033  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760132-1023  
**From:** BORDEAUX  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760485/aaaactye.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM - MODERNIZATION OF THE CANAL DU MIDI  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EWWT, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006